

Application Serial No.: 10/623,132

Preliminary Amendment dated February 23, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant's invention is set forth in claim 1, as amended, and new claims 6-7 provided herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to correspond to the version presented in the parent application hereof. Similarly, the Specification and Abstract are amended to conform to the revisions of the parent application.

As provided in the parent application, applicant provides herewith a replacement for Fig. 3 as erroneously filed with the parent application.

In a paper dated January 28, 2003, the Examiner had approved the replacement drawing figure in the parent application.

As noted in applicant's paper filed November 7, 2002 in the parent application, during preparation of the application based on the priority document filed in Japan, Fig. 3 as presented was erroneously prepared as a duplicate of Fig. 4. In fact, it is apparent that Fig. 3 (as filed) does not agree with the description of the structure therein, as provided at page 12, lines 11-12. Applicant thus noted that the specification discloses that the shaft is secured on the central portion of the bottom of base 2, while the illustration of Fig. 3 (as filed) does not show a connection of shaft 5 to the bottom of the base, and indeed provides a space at the bottom of the shaft. Upon comparison with Fig. 4, it is clear that Fig. 3 (as filed) is, in fact, a duplicate thereof.

On the other hand, replacement Fig. 3 corresponds to the disclosure at page 12, lines 11-12, as well as to the disclosure at the penultimate sentence of page 12,

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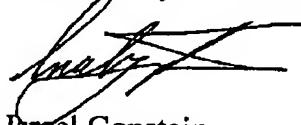
that sleeve 10 "is fit into the holder 16", while in original Fig. 3 the sleeve is clearly loosely within holder 16 and is integrally connected with base 2 as required of Fig. 4 by the description at page 13, lines 2-3.

Thus, replacement Fig. 3 (which is the same as Fig. 3 of the Priority Document filed in the parent application) in fact corresponds to the original disclosure.

Therefore, it is courteously submitted that the present preliminary amendment corrects errors attended to during prosecution of the parent application and that entry thereof in the present continuing application is in order.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that examination of the application on the merits is in order and the same is courteously requested. In order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Israel Gopstein  
Registration No. 27,333

P. O. Box 9303  
Silver Spring, MD 20916-9303  
(301) 537-5310  
(240) 371-0700 (fax)  
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